

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: March 12-18, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

Flights: Nothing to report.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

3/14: WS confirmed a calf was killed by wolves East of Lima. The landowner saw 2 gray wolves in the area when he found the calf, consistent with tracks seen near the carcass. Initial response protocol was followed but no wolves were removed. Unknown if this is a new pair or part of a group that has been seen in the Sheep Creek area.

3/18: WS confirmed that a calf was killed on private land near Polaris. The Bannack pack was thought to be involved in the depredation. The initial response protocol was implemented and WS has been authorized to kill one wolf,.

3/18: WS confirmed an adult cow as being injured by wolves in the Sage Creek area. The cow had to be euthanized due to its wounds. From tracks in the area the attack appeared to be from 2 wolves. It is uncertain if it is the same wolves from the earlier depredation? WS was going to attempt to call and set traps on the carcass via initial response protocol.

3/19: WS confirmed four calves killed on private property north of Avon. The calves appeared to have died during at least two separate attacks that occurred on separate days and died as a result of being trampled by other cattle during the attacks. The landowner reported seeing four wolves chasing the cattle on the morning of the 19th. The four wolves are believed to be members of the Sixmile pack which was estimated to include at least 7 wolves at the end of 2010. FWP has authorized WS to remove the four wolves involved.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION: Nothing to report.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

OTHER UPDATES:

Interior Announces Proposed Settlement of Gray Wolf Lawsuit - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reached an agreement with the majority of plaintiffs, including Defenders of Wildlife, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, and eight other conservation organizations, to settle ongoing litigation over a Federal District Court's 2010 decision to reinstate Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains. If approved by the court, the settlement offers a path for the Service to return management of the recovered wolf populations in Idaho and Montana to the States while the Service considers options for delisting gray wolves across the Rocky Mountain region, where population levels have returned to biologically recovered levels.

For more information visit: <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Interior-Announces-Proposed-Settlement-of-Gray-Wolf-Lawsuit.cfm>

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.